

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01436 201639 Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1436

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SWEL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FATHER ROCHA ASSIGNMENT

REF: DEPT' S A-2936, APRIL 4, 1973

SUMMARY: CHANCES OF GOP ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSED
ASSIGNMENT OF FATHER ROCHA TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH
GOP MINISTER OF HEALTH WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY
IMPROVED BY WHITE HOUSE APPROACH TO GOP AMBASSADOR.
END SUMMARY

1. HAVE BEEN SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN
MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL CALVET DE MAGALHAES WHOM
WE JUDGE BEST AVENUE FOR INITIAL APPROACH TO GOP ON
SUBJECT. HOPEFULLY WILL HAVE BETTER LUCK ONCE EASTER
HOLIDAYS OVER. MEANWHILE, AND NOT RPT NOT WISHING
APPEAR PRESUMPTUOUS, WE FEEL CHANCES OF SECURING
GOP ACCEPTANCE OF IDEA WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY
IMPROVED, AND MAY INDEED REQUIRE, PARALLEL APPROACH
AT WHITE HOUSE LEVEL TO GOP AMBASSADOR THEMIDO
IN WASHINGTON.

2. WE ARE SUGGESTING THIS UNUSUAL STEP BECAUSE
PROPOSAL IS, FOR GOP, HIGHLY UNUSUAL. PORTUGUESE
ARE BY NATURE RESERVED TOWARD FOREIGNERS. WHILE ON
RARE OCCASIONS GOP HAS ITSELF HIRED FOREIGNERS ON
TEMPORARY CONTRACTS, THERE IS NO RPT NO PRECEDENT
IN PORTUGAL OF ACCEDING TO REQUEST OF FOREIGN
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PAGE 02 LISBON 01436 201639 Z

GOVERNMENT TO HAVE ONE OF ITS NATIONALS WORK DIRECTLY WITH GOP MINISTER OR INDEED AT ANY OTHER LEVEL OF GOP MINISTRY. PORTUGUESE RETICENCE IN PRESENT INSTANCE WILL BE INCREASED BY FACT FATHER ROCHA IS EMPLOYEE (ALBEIT CONTRACT) OF USG. INCIDENTALLY, WE KNOW OF NO HEALTH ADVISOR TO GOP PRESIDENT.

3. WE PLAN PRESENT IDEA TO CALVET ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: USG AT HIGHEST LEVELS HAS NOTED WITH GREAT INTEREST EFFORTS BY GOP TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AMONG THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, ONE ASPECT OF WHICH IS PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES. IN ORDER HAVE CLEAREST POSSIBLE PICTURE OF THIS SITUATION, HEW HAS CONTRACTED WITH FATHER ROCHA, HIGHLY QUALIFIED RESEARCHER IN GERONTOLOGY AND HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, TO DO TWO- YEAR STUDY OF DYNAMICS OF HEALTH IN PORTUGAL AND OVER-SEAS PROVINCES (NOTE: NOT RPT NOT COLONIES) , RESULT OF WHICH WILL BE MONOGRAPH DEPICTING ENTIRE PORTUGUESE HEALTH SCENE. THIS STUDY WILL BE DESIGNED NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE USG WITH GREATER FIRST- HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE INSIGHT BY QUALIFIED OBSERVER WHICH GOP MAY DRAW UPON IN ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE STILL FURTHER THE HEALTH SERVICES IT PROVIDES TO PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. IN ORDER ENSURE THAT RESEARCHER IS CONTINUOUSLY GUIDED THROUGHOUT PERIOD OF RESEARCH BY HIGHEST- LEVEL POLICY GUIDANCE, WE PROPOSE THAT FATHER ROCHA BE ASSIGNED TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH GOP MINISTER OF HEALTH.

4. DETAILS OF FATHER ROCHA' S CURRICULUM VITAE ADDITIONAL TO THOSE SUPPLIED REFAIRGRAM WOULD BE MOST USEFUL FOR ABOVE PRESENTATION AND SHOULD BE SENT BY TELEGRAM.
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